New Gennadeion Monograph Showcases Gennadius Manuscripts

The Gennadius Library and the Greek Paleographical Society recently joined forces to produce a beautiful volume on Greek manuscripts from the Library collections. Based on an exhibition and colloquium organized in May 2004 by former Gennadius Library Director Haris Kalligas and the President of the Paleographical Society, Maria L. Politi, the book marks a new beginning in the Gennadeion Monographs series and reinforces the ASCSAs commitment to bilingual publishing, as it is published in Greek and English.

The book, entitled “Exploring Greek Manuscripts in the Gennadius Library,” was edited by Maria Politi and Eleni Pappa, and appeals to a scholarly and general public. It presents the intrinsic beauty and value of some of the manuscripts assembled thanks to the vision and erudition of George Gennadius and his son, Joannes. Eleven leading scholars illustrate the intriguing history of several manuscripts from the collection. 

Medieval Greek Summer Session a Success

With the aim to introduce students of a variety of backgrounds, disciplines, and fields to the development of Greek language and literature in the Byzantine period, the fourth Medieval Greek Summer Session was held in July 2011. The generous support of the A. G. Leventis Foundation provided full fellowships to the eleven participants (eight students from U.S. universities and three from European institutions).

Alexandros Alexakis of the University of Ioannina and Stratis Papaioannou of Brown University led morning sessions of close reading and translation of Byzantine texts and Greek palaeography. Afternoon tutorials permitted students to focus on their specific needs and interests whereas special sessions introduced them to the collections of the Gennadius Library.

Art historian Sofia Georgiadou, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois, assisted with visits to several museums and monuments in Athens, Ancient Corinth, Mystras, Thessaloniki, Hosios Loukas, and Delphi.

Papers Donated to Gennadeion Archives

Several recent donations to the Archives of the Gennadius Library shed light on literary and archaeological facets of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Greece.

Professor Nanno Marinatos donated her father’s personal correspondence from 1929 to 1939. This small collection consists of about 500 letters, most from the time that Spyridon Marinatos was an Ephor of Antiquities on Crete, and the period (1937–1939) of his service as Director of Antiquities in the Ministry of Education before he was appointed professor of archaeology at the University of Athens.

The collection includes letters from important Greek and

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Sofia Georgiadou (second from left) speaking to the Medieval Greek Summer Session students at the Athenian Agora.
New Gennadeion Overseers Welcomed

On October 27, 2011, the Board of Overseers of the Gennadius Library welcomed new board members Mark Mazower, George Soteraakis, and Susan Sutton at their annual fall meeting in New York City. That evening, at a dinner hosted by Chairman Alexander Zagoreos and his wife Marine for Overseers, spouses, and invited guests, Professor Mazower spoke on “The Greeks and the Sea: The View from Tinos,” and a lively question-and-answer period followed.

Professor Mark Mazower is a historian specializing in modern Greece, twentieth-century Europe, and international history. He holds a doctorate in modern history from Oxford. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430–1950* (2004); *After the War was Over: Reconstructing the State, Family and the Law in Greece, 1943–1960* (2000); and, most recently, *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire* (2009). A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he is the Ira D. Wallach Professor of World Order Studies and Professor of History at Columbia University, as well as the director of the Center for International History at Columbia.

George Soteraakis is an attorney with extensive litigation and transactional experience (especially commercial law, contracts, finance, and intellectual property). He was educated at Johns Hopkins and Boston University School of Law. From 2007 through July 2011 he was an associate at the New York law firm of Winston & Strawn, LLP. Mr. Soteraakis is also a junior member of Leadership 100, an organization founded by Greek-American businessmen to support the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

Professor Susan Buck Sutton is a distinguished anthropologist who has devoted much of her career to the study of modern Greece. Educated at Bryn Mawr College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she was editor of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* from 1999 to 2002 and has published more than 50 articles on both anthropology and international education, as well as four books. She is currently the Senior Advisor to the President of Bryn Mawr College for International Initiatives. Prior to that she was the Associate Vice President of International Affairs at Indiana University.

News From the Library

New Acquisitions

To complement the Library’s fine historical map collection, a rare edition of Abraham Ortelius’s *Thesaurus Geographicus* published in 1611 was bought from Cartographica Neerlandica.

The *Philoi* of the Gennadius Library donated to the Library several old books as well as two periodicals published in the nineteenth century: “Ο Αστήρ της Ανατολής” (The Star of the Orient) and “Magazzino pittorico universal.”

In July the Library purchased three pamphlets with Joannes Gennadius’s autograph dedications to his family.

Byron’s Memorabilia

The 200th anniversary of the publication of Byron’s poem “Maid of Athens” offered Senior Librarian Irini Solomonidi the opportunity to rearrange the display cases containing Byron’s memorabilia. All of Byron’s personal objects were photographed, new labels were created, and they were rearranged in two display cases with the help of archivist Eleftheria Daleziou.

Gennadius Finding-Aid Revised

Thanks to the financial support of the *Philoi* of the Gennadius Library, Assistant Archivist Alexis Malliaris was able to revise the finding-aid for a portion of Joannes Gennadius’s personal papers kept in the Archives of the Library. The finding-aid is available electronically through the ASCSA website (http://www.ascsa.edu.gr/index.php/archives/johannes-gennadius-finding-aid/#series_i_correspondence). Alexis Malliaris will speak on the Day of Joannes Gennadius organized by the Gennadeion *Philoi* on March 7, 2012.

Fellows at the Gennadeion

Three fellows make special use of the Gennadius Library’s collections during 2011–12.

Fulbright Fellow Brent Douglas Gilbert, a Ph.D. student at the Catholic University of America, is studying the patristics collections of the Gennadeion for his dissertation, entitled “Greek Anthropology and Christian Polemic in Gregory of Nyssa’s *De Hominis Opificio*.”

Cotsen Traveling Fellow Alessia Zambon of the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the University of Padova spent a month in the Library studying the archive of Barbé du Bocage, one of the most precious acquisitions of Joannes Gennadius. She presented her work on “Fauvel in Greece” in November. The generosity of the heirs of George Papaioannou, whose papers were donated to the GL Archives in 2009, will support the research of George Antoniou, of the Democritus University of Thrace, who will be working on the “Legacy of the Resistance in the Postwar Political Life of Greece: A First Evaluation” as the first Papaioannou Fellow.

Staff News

Irini Solomonidi attended a week-long seminar on “The Printed Book in Europe: 1450–2000” at the Rare Books School in London in July 2011. After completing the cataloguing of the Gennadius periodicals funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Asimina Rodi joined the staff of the Library in the place of long-time assistant librarian Andreas Sideris, who retired this summer.
Library Holdings On Display at Elytis Exhibition


Two hundred items from the Elytis Papers that the poet donated to the Gennadius Library’s Archives in 1976 were lent to the exhibition. A whole floor of the exhibition at the Theocharakis Foundation showcased Elytis’s collages and temperas from the Gennadius Archives. Manuscripts, books, medals, diplomas, correspondence, vinyl record albums, pamphlets, and personal documents complemented other displays in the show. Elytis’s artwork explores recurring themes of his poetry—the sea, the sun, the korai, the angels—but also geometric and abstract compositions.

The exhibition included letters of famous artists (Greek composers Mikis Theodorakis and Manos Hatzidakis) and poets (e.g., Paul Eluard, George Seferis, Yiannis Ritsos), even a humorous card written by children to congratulate the poet for the Nobel Prize in Literature awarded in 1979: “Congratulations and we wish you to get the Nobel prize every year!”

Representative artworks by leading Greek and foreign artists that Elytis admired, such as Theofilos, Tsarouchis, Moralis, Fassianos, Picasso, and Matisse, along with the works of twenty contemporary Greek artists who have been inspired by Elytis, gave the show a unique brilliance.

On October 19, poet Ioulita Iliopoulou gave a lively lecture in Cotsen Hall entitled “Odysseus Elytis. Elements of a Poetic Identity.”

— Leda Costaki, Research Archivist

New Griffon Shines Light on Hidden Treasures

The latest edition of The New Griffon (Volume 12), titled “Hidden Treasures at the Gennadius Library,” highlights several discoveries made recently among the Gennadius collections.

In this volume, Father Konstantinos Terzopoulos explores 16 manuscripts of Byzantine chant; Leonora Navari presents the published works of Cardinal Bessarion in the Gennadeion; Cristina Pallini dissect an early hand-drawn map of Smyrna; Pasquale Massimo Pinto considers the works of the nineteenth-century forger Constantinos Simonidis, a complete set of which was eagerly sought by Joannes Gennadius; Stephen Duckworth follows Edward Lear’s wanderings on Crete through a careful study of his watercolors; American School Director Jack Davis analyzes topographical drawings connected with the presence of the French in the Peloponnesh in the early nineteenth century; Aliki Asvesta presents a wealth of information from the archive of cartographer Barbè du Bocage; Maria-Christina Chatzioannou explores the personal archive of Joannes Gennadius to paint a portrait of the Gennadeion’s founder in the context of British society; and archivist Eleftheria Daleziou examines the archives of Greek politician Ion Dragoumis, focusing on his exile on Corsica in the early twentieth century.
Gennadeion Director Lectures in New York

In May 2011, Gennadius Library Director Maria Georgopoulou presented her research on Venice and Byzantium at the Greek Consulate in New York. The illustrated lecture showed the imperial trophies that the Venetians took from Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade of 1204 and the efforts that the Republic of Venice made to emulate Byzantium at home. Ambassador Aghi Balta, Consul General of Greece to New York, hosted a reception at the Consulate sponsored by the Livanos Family and Chef Jim Botsacos of Molyvos and Sotiris Baftis.

Events for 2012

Thanks to the generous support of Lloyd E. and Margit Cotsen, a diverse slate of lectures has been scheduled to take place at Cotsen Hall in 2012.

February 14: Alice-Mary Talbot of Dumbarton Oaks will lecture on “Women and Mt. Athos: Insights from the Archives of the Holy Mountain”

March 13: Statthis Kalyvas of Yale University will speak in Greek on “Resistance and Civil War”

April 3: Joanita Vroom of the University of Amsterdam will present a lecture on “Mr. Turkey goes to Turkey. How a Dutch Diplomat Wined and Dined in 18th-century Constantinople”

May 8: The 31st Annual Walton Lecture will feature Henry Maguire of Johns Hopkins University, who will speak on “Nectar and Illusion: Art, Nature, and Rhetoric in Byzantium”

May 24: Biographer Artemis Cooper will reminisce on “Patrick Leigh Fermor in Greece”

In addition to the lecture series, the Gennadeion’s Philoi will sponsor the Fifth Annual Bookfair on May 17.

Mitropoulos’s Piano Sonatas Subject of New Book

Dimitri Mitropoulos’s compositions, kept in the Archives of the Gennadius Library, are explored in a detailed study by Ioannis Fouliias, lecturer at the Department of Music Studies of the University of Athens. The book, published in Greek, is entitled The Two Piano Sonatas of Dimitri Mitropoulos – From the Late Romantic Era to the Greek National School of Music (Athens 2011).

Dr. Fouliias’s study focuses on the “Piano Sonata in E Flat major,” also known under the title “H ψυχή μου” (“My Soul”), and the “Greek Sonata.”

Papers Donated (continued from G1)

foreign archaeologists including George Mylonas, Konstantinos Rhomaios, Nikolaos Platon, Ioannis Meliadis, Georg Karo, R.W. Hutchinson, and W. Dorpfeld, as well as Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas. The collection also includes some earlier correspondence with Stephanos Xanthoudides, another important Cretan archaeologist. During his service on Crete, Marinatos excavated important Minoan sites including the villa at Amnisos and the famous bronze hoard at Arkalochori, to mention just a few of Marinatos’ discoveries on the island. Nanno Marinatos has studied her father’s papers and is preparing a book, “Citizens of Minos,” which explores the relationship of the young Ephyropoulos Marinatos with the doyen of Minoan archaeology, Sir Arthur Evans.

Professor Agne Vlavianou Arvanitou has donated to the Archives of the Gennadius Library a small number of letters and books from poet Kostis Palamas to Nikos Fandrides.

A polyglot scholar, Fandrides published a number of studies about European philosophers and poets of the nineteenth century, and intended to make Kostis Palamas known in Europe. Unfortunately, his premature death in 1914 put an end to this plan.

The Palamas letters are on display in the main reading room of the Gennadius Library, thanks to archivist Eleftheria Daleziou, who prepared a handsome showcase.


The collection consists of letters that Kasolea received from Elytis and of copies of letters that she sent to him in 1957–1996. Her faithful devotion and admiration is also apparent in handwritten notes that she kept whenever they had an important conversation over the phone or after visits that she paid to him in the hospital. This interesting material sheds light into the process of translating poetry. Elytis himself wonders in one of his letters: “I am very curious how the content [of the translated book] will fare with the people of the North who have never in their lives listened to the cicadas nor have they ever stepped in a caique” (6.8.1960).